

December 22, 1999

Mr. John Berry, Assistant Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW. Mailstop 6117  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Reconciliation Act (Hawaiian)

Mr. Berry,

I would first like to commend you for ability to humble yourself, and conduct the business at hand while facing at times, somewhat volatile individual members of the Hawaiian community. When this occurred, my first thought was "this is why the Hawaiians can't move forward". I reside on the island of Maui, "Maui no ka oe". I attended the hearing at Paukukalo, and did not testify. I felt that I could relate to you what I think, better on several sheets of paper, than in three minutes in front of a crowd.

My name is Steven Newhouse, I am 25% hawaiian, 25% chinese, the balance (50%) is equally divided between english, french, scotch, german, dutch and tahitian. I was raised by 3 different, and culturally distinct groups of my ohand (extended family).

The Hawaiian ohana were fisherman, and workers. They taught me to survive on the land, and in the sea. They worked hard and they played hard. I am traced back 7 generations, prior to the arrival of captain Cook.

The German, Scotch, and English, arrived in the early 1800's. My Chinese great grandmother was sent to Hawaii with her uncle and aunt when she was 2 years old. My grandfather, Newhouse came to Hawaii as a member of the U.S. Army.

I consider myself, hawaiian, not Hawaiian with upper case letters, but hawaiian, lower case only. I am also chinese, tahitian, and white (American). My allegiance is to my family, my god, my Hawaii, and my country.

While there are some Hawaiians who want the Islands to be restored to a sovereign monarchy, I believe that what has been done in the past is done. Too late to undo, let's reach some sort of mutual agreement to resolve our differences. I doubt that the majority of Hawaiians want to return to a monarchy either.

I, like many other Hawaiians, were born and raised as Americans first, Hawaiians second. The "olelo", (language of our forefathers) was not spoken in

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public, only at home when the family was present. Hawaiian language was taught on a very sporadic basis at best. Hula was predominant, and used as entertainment for the "haole" tourist (meaning any foreigner). The gods of old were replaced with the Christian God, and worship of the ancient dieties ceased.

This is how I was raised, typical "hawaiian kid" circa 1954. Too brown to be fully accepted by the haole, and too white to be fully accepted by the "Hawaiians". Those who are my friends, and know me, will tell you that I don't care what you are, the color of your skin or what church you go to. My Hawaii is the land of "ALOHA". You do your thing, and I'll do my thing, don't bother me and I won't bother you. Respect me as a human being and I will respect you in return.

I fear that many Hawaiians have lost that spirit of aloha, they are caught up in the western ways. Many now think of themselves as sovereign Hawaiians, who are owed something personally. They are caught up in a quandary, trying to decide who they areas a race. I have tried all my life to blend all this heritage into something that I can live with, without showing disrespect to others.

Can Hawaii ever return to a sovereign nation, I personally don't think so. If our children are any indication of the future of Hawaiians as a people, then those who are speaking loud and clear, and with a sharp tongue should realize that the next generation doesn't want a monarchy, or an independent Hawaiian Nation. Maybe a form of nation within a nation would work for them, maybe not. Our children don't want to secede from the union. They want the opportunity to have an education, compete in the global work force, work hard and play hard.

Of our 3 children, the youngest, Kimberley who is 16, is our only keiki to have been provided the opportunity to learn the Hawaiian language, and participate in programs funded by the federal government, specifically catering to Hawaiian children. The Native Hawaiian Education Act, has provided the funding for numerous programs. Na Pua Noeau which she has been involved in for several years is such a recipient. Through this program, I have watched her grow up to become a confident, reliable, young Hawaiian woman, who has the skills and desire to succeed in life.

I have been bugging her for the past 4 months to start thinking about college, and what she wants to do with her life. First it was a secretary, then the armed forces, she even thought about engineering. Last week as she drove me home, she said "dad, I want to get into medicine". I explained that this was a noble profession, that it will take alot of concentration, and maximum effort on her part to be successful. The next question was "what about money".

At this point I can't answer that, other than "we'll find it somehow, somewhere", if you are willing to dedicate yourself in this endeavor. This is where the United States of America comes in. Reconciliation, and Reparations, in laymans terms or just plain old Kings English, *money*. My wife constantly tells me that money isn't everything, and I reply "show me how to trade rocks for food and shelter", then find someone who is willing to trade and I'll be out in the yard picking up rocks every day.

*MONEY, MONEY, MONEY*, the root of all evil?, greed, and such maladies which plague our communities. For me money means caring for my family, providing them with a home, health insurance, clothes, food, a movie, transportation to events, and as much as I can give them. Money via whatever form of reconciliation, and reparations from the United States of America, should be focused on education, housing, and health.

Given that we live in a global community, where daily necessities are produced and technology is shared all over the world, Hawaiian children need financial aid. The state Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, the state Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Alu Like Inc., Na Pua Noeau, and a host of other organizations need funding to further help these children to compete in our ever evolving world. Some Hawaiians need housing, while others need medical care, most of all I firmly believe that most Hawaiians want to work. They do not want a hand out from the government, and then have to look at their neighbor and expect him to understand what this "situation" is all about.

They do not want to have to tell someone in their ohana who does not meet the blood quantum, that you aren't a native Hawaiian, so you aren't afforded the same opportunities. Hawaiian style is, color-no problem, hair & eyes-no problem, religion-no problem, main thing you believe in God, and treat people the way you would like to be treated.

Return what land that is not in use for the common good to DHHL, fund education, health, and housing programs for all Hawaiians, regardless of blood quantum. One drop of the blood of the aboriginal people living here prior to Captain Cooks arrival will do. Will pumping a pile of money to keep the natives quiet solve anything? Doubtful, as it will most likely take years, and alot of effort on both sides to truly reconcile, and "Imua" (move forward).

To be hawaiian, chinese, tahitian, and of mixed european decent, all the while trying to juggle this with everyday life is not easy for me. I do know who I am, and where I come from. I understand other cultures, I know of the past. I also know where I want to go, and what I want for my family, as well as the greater Hawaiian community.

Many Hawaiians have forgotten or just don't practice ALOHA anymore, through no fault of their own. They were brought up that way, and had no say in these matters. One is born Hawaiian not by chance, but by purpose, and the will of God. I would like to see *the word* "ALOHA" used more, and the living of "ALOHA" practiced every day.

This is my testimony to you Mr. John Berry, and Mr. Mark Van Norman, representative's of the United States Government, man to man, human to human. I pray that you will both come to a consensus which will be mutually beneficial to all parties concerned. I thank you for your time, efforts, and diligence in carrying out you duties.

My ohana wishes your ohana the best of the holiday season, and all which comes with it.

mahalo and aloha.



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cc: M. Van Norman  
D. Inouye  
D. Akaka